

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Office Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 are now pending in the application, with Claims 1, 2 and 14 being independent. Claims 1, 2, 8 and 14 have been amended herein.

Claims 1-8 and 11-14 were rejected under § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,248,210 (Schulz) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,297,018 (Kashimura). Claims 9 and 10 were rejected under § 103 as being unpatentable over Schulz in view of Kashimura and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,447,188 (Ishizaki). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

With the arrangements recited in the independent claims, the present invention can provide a minimal footprint so as to require less of an area for installing the apparatus. This can be accomplished by providing many of the conveying components and printing components along the first side of the apparatus on which the first and second printing medium holding regions are disposed, and by conveying the medium generally in a vertical direction along that first side.

Schulz describes an ink jet printer in which sheets are fed from a sheet-feeder roller 6 between two adjacent rollers 7, 8, which deflect the sheet into a guide trough 10, which guides the sheet upward through baffle element 11 and into a nip formed between conveyor rollers 12, 13. Printing head 13 is disposed downstream of the conveyor rollers. It should be noted that in Schulz, paper-feeding roller 6, conveyor roller 12 and printing head 15 are substantially spaced apart in the horizontal direction, thereby widening the footprint of the apparatus.

In Schulz, conveyor roller 12 is disposed away from the side of the apparatus that the supply cassette 3 and output bin 19 are located, and closer to the side of the apparatus where the printing head is disposed. Accordingly, Schulz does not disclose or suggest that the reversal means includes a reversal roller having a peripheral surface which is in close proximity to both of the first side and second side of the apparatus body, as is recited in independent Claims 1 and 2. Moreover, in Schulz, the printing medium is not conveyed between an ink tank and the first side of the apparatus body above the printing means in a manner such that the printing medium is conveyed along the ink tank and the first side of the apparatus body in the vicinity of the first side of the apparatus body, as is also recited in independent Claims 1 and 2 and in independent Claim 14. Rather, as the recording medium is conveyed past the head in Schulz, it is conveyed along a side opposite to the side on which the paper supply cassette and output bin are disposed.

Thus, Schulz fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in the independent claims.

In the recording apparatus of Kashimura, a reciprocal recording head 16 is mounted above a horizontally conveyed recording medium. The ink tank can be provided integrally or separately from the recording head. However, even assuming, arguendo, the reciprocal recording head of Kashimura were incorporated in Schulz to replace printing head 15, the resulting combination would still fail to disclose or suggest the features noted above as being deficient in Schulz alone.

Ishizaki has also been reviewed, but is also not believed to remedy the deficiencies of the citations noted above with respect to the independent claims.

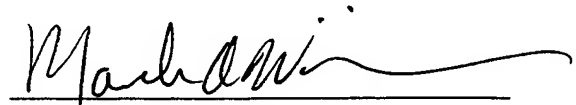
Thus, independent Claims 1, 2 and 14 are patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1, 2 and 14. Dependent Claims 3-13 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Williamson", written over a horizontal line.

Mark A. Williamson
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 33,628

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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